



P R E S S R E L E A S E

City of St. Joseph Health Department
904 South 10th Street, St. Joseph, MO 64503

Media inquiries contact Stephanie Malita at 816-271-5327

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COMMUNITY-WIDE COVID-19 TESTING EVENTS IMPORTANT TO ST. JOSEPH

The City of St. Joseph Health Department, in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, will be providing COVID-19 testing. This free drive-through testing event will be held at Heritage Park Softball Complex, 2202 Waterworks Rd, St. Joseph, on November 7, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This COVID-19 testing event is open to Missouri residents ages 7 and older, regardless of whether they have symptoms (which may appear anywhere from 2 to 14 days after exposure). Testing for COVID-19 involves using a swab to take a sample from inside the nose and determine if there is an active infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This is an active COVID-19 test, not an antibody test.

Pre-registration is strongly advised and can be completed online at www.health.mo.gov/communitytest or by calling the State's COVID-19 Hotline at 877-435-8411. Pre-registration guarantees a test and much faster processing at the testing site.

Participants will have the opportunity to set up a secure online user ID at a portal provided by the processing lab, Quest Diagnostic, to access their test results. Those whose test results are positive for COVID-19 will receive a call from their local health department.

Community-wide testing allows for collection of a broad sample of results from people with or without symptoms to identify and increase understanding of COVID-19 community spread. During a communicable disease outbreak, testing leads to quick identification of cases, immediate isolation to prevent spread and supportive guidance for best outcomes. Testing also helps identify people who have come into contact with those who are infected, allowing public health staff to notify them, give guidance, and initiate self-quarantine. Testing is important to the bigger public health picture regarding mitigation efforts and helping investigators characterize the prevalence, spread and contagiousness of the disease. Results from community-wide testing events help officials create appropriate guidelines for businesses and public events.

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